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July 11, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment, WC Docket No. 16-143; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25

Chairman Wheeler:

You have been a strong advocate for improved broadband access and more competition in the broadband market. We appreciate your work on this issue, but we urge the FCC to improve competition in the business data services market. This market is vitally important to states with large rural areas, like Oklahoma. It desperately needs reform, and FCC should rewrite the rules governing this market to promote greater competition.

We live in a digital economy, so it's important that businesses, schools, hospitals, and emergency services have affordable access to business data services. Unfortunately, with two companies controlling this market, that access is often extremely expensive. The lack of competition in this market not only causes businesses and consumers to overpay billions of dollars a year, it also harms broadband deployment and innovation.

The adoption of E911 has slowed because of a lack of data services in many parts of the country including Oklahoma. Traditional 911 is routed through telephone lines and is not capable of providing the level of medical information that E911 does, which makes our job saving lives much easier.

The FCC can remedy this situation by writing new rules for this market. It's time that the regulations governing data services were brought up-to-date and made to work for businesses, consumers, and also importantly - patients.

Reforming the data services market is a key part of making America's broadband infrastructure work for the 21st Century and allows emergency services to better help the public. Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca B. Williamson
President
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